

Federal Funding Conference – Limited Seats Remain

There are only a few spots remaining for the Federal Funding Conference Feb. 28 and March 1 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. If your school district has not signed up yet, or if there are other staff at your district that mean to attend, register as soon as possible. Once the spots are taken we will not be able to add on any additional seats due to being at full-capacity for the conference center space.

Registration information is on the WASBO website at

<http://www.wasbo.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=303>

Central Contractor Registration (CCR) conversion to System of Award Management (SAM)

A DPI memo has been published reminding districts that any entity receiving federal grant dollars is required to have a Data Universal Number (DUNS). The memo also outlines the changes that have occurred with the CCR conversion to SAM. Districts are encouraged to register their DUNS number with SAM. The memo can be viewed at: http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/files/sms/doc/faids_mmo_duns-sam_2013_01.doc. Any questions regarding this topic should be addressed to Andrea Prem at 608-266-7304 or by email at andrea.prem@dpi.wi.gov

Equipment Purchasing and Contracting Using Federal Funds

The Special Education Team has provided guidance to districts and CESAs on establishing a procurement system that complies with federal regulations in 34 CFR §80.36, which addresses how an agency makes purchasing decisions and enters into contracts using federal grant funds. Current technical assistance includes a Procurement Technical Assistance Guide, an Outline of Provisions for IDEA-Funded Contracts, and other resources: http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_grt-procurement. District program staff are encouraged to work with their business managers to review these resources to ensure their compliance with federal procurement regulations. In addition, a session on purchasing and contracting using federal funds will be presented at the Federal Funding Conference (the regulations outlined in 34 CFR §80.36 apply to all US Department of Education grants, including Title I).

Sequestration

With passage of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 and the anticipated delay in decisions about spending cuts, the Special Education Team feels that there will not be any cuts to the FY 2013 IDEA entitlement allocations. This is, of course, speculative, as this is an unknown situation and there is no past precedence to base our guidance. But due to the lateness of final decision making, it would be fairly difficult to amend allocations for the current year. Districts should be aware, however, that if sequestration does eventually take place, the cut that was to happen in 2013 and the cut that is to happen in 2014 will both take place in 2014.